

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11639

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: GPHY, OSCI, EG
SUBJ: FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY

REF STATE 203887,

1. SUMMARY: MRS SADAT ASKS FOR ADDITIONAL US HELP FOR
FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY. SO DOES MRS FAHMY. END SUMMARY

2. AT HER REQUEST, I MET WITH MRS SADAT YESTERDAY. AMONG
OTHER THINGS ON HER MIND WAS FINANCING FOR THE FAITH AND
HOPE PROJECT. PERKINS AND WILL, AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM,
HAD JUST SUBMITTED ITS REPORT INDICATING CONSTRUCTION
COULD BEGIN ON MAIN HOSPITAL BUILDING AS EARLY AS JAN 1,
1977. THEY HAD ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF HOSPITAL AT ABOUT
\$83 MILLION (AS SHE REMEMBERED THE FIGURE), OF WHICH ABOUT
\$13 MILLION WILL FOR FOR EQUIPMENT.

3 MRS SADAT MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR FURTHER US FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE. SHE AGAIN CLAIMED THAT SHE HAD BEEN TOLD USG
WOULD FIND THE MEANS TO FUND THE HOSPITAL. SHE HAD TO HAVE
ADDITIONAL AMERICAN ASSISTANCE. I TRIED AS GENTLY BUT FIRMLY
AS I COULD TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE USG REMAINS INTERESTED
IN AND SYMPATHETIC TO FAITH AND HOPE PROJECT, I WAS NOT AWARE
OF ANY US COMMITMENT TO FUND IT. AS I HAD TOLD HER LAST
FALL, PRIOR TO THE SADATS' VISIT TO THE STATES, WE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE CIP LOAN
PROCESS, PROVIDED GOE GIVES THE PROJECT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH
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PRIORITY. (MRS SADAT INTERVENED TO SAY GOE WILL DO SO*)

SINCE CONSTRUCTION HAS NOT YET BEGUN AND ADEQUATE WAREHOUSING FACILITIES ARE NOT EXISTENT, IT HARDLY SEEMED WISE TO BEGIN PURCHASING EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE CIP ROUTE NOW. (SHE AGREED).

4. AS FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS, I TOLD HER THAT THE FEDERAL GOVT, IN ASSISTING STATE PROGRAMS, NORMALLY DOES NOT FUND CONSTRUCTION, BUT ONLY EQUIPMENT COSTS. SHE PROFESSED TO UNDERSTAND, BUT ASKED SOMEWHAT HELPLESSLY, "WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET THE MONEY?" I SUGGESTED THAT THE WEALTHY ARAB STATES OUGHT TO BE A PRINCIPAL SOURCE. SHE AGREED AND SAID SHE HAS REGULARLY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE SAUDIS AND OTHERS. SHE HAD TOLD SAUDI MODA PRINCE SULTAN THAT, SINCE MANY OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL WILL BE EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN BEHALF OF THE ARAB CAUSE, SAG HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE ARAB NATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HOSPITAL. BOTH SULTAN AND PRINCE FAHD HAD SAID THEY WOULD HELP, BUT SHE THEN COMMENTED, "YOU KNOW THE ARABS-- THEY TALK A LOT ABOUT THEIR GENEROSITY, BUT DO LITTLE TO SHOW IT." SULTAN WILL VISIT EGYPT ON OCT 2 AND SHE INTENDS TO TACKLE HIM AGAIN ON THE SUBECT.

5. I ALSO SUGGESTED SHE SHOULD AGAIN TRY THE PRIVATE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN FOUNDATIONS. WHILE MANY OF THE FOUNDATIONS ARE CURRENTLY HARD-PRESSED, THEY MAY, NEVERTHELESS, BE INTERESTED. I STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SUCH APPROACHES, TO BE EFFECTIVE, WILL REQUIRE A PROFESSIONALLY DONE ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDING DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FIGURES. THIS IS NECESSARY FOR ANY ADDITIONAL USG AID THROUGH CIP OR OTHERWISE. SHE AGREED, CLAIMING SHE HAS BEEN PRESSING THE SOCIETY'S DIR, ADMIRAL SHUAITY, TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF PRODUCING SUCH A REPORT.

6. LATER IN THE EVENING, MRS FAHMY TELEPHONED TO ASK ABOUT MY TALK WITH MRS SADAT. I TOLD HER WHAT I HAD SAID AND SHE SEEMED RATHER DISAPPOINTED. AT FAHMY'S PROMPTING, SHE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE IS NOT SOME WAY IN WHICH THE AID PROGRAM--OR OUR PL480 EGYPTIAN POUND HOLDINGS--CAN FINACE THE PROJECT. I TOLD HER THAT, APART FROM EQUIPMENT FINANCING THROUGH CIP, I DID NOT THINK THIS WAS LIKELY. I AGAIN MENTIONED THE ARABS AND THE FOUNDATIONS. SHE RECALLED THE SUBJECT
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HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH VP ROCKEFELLER, PRESUMABLY DURING THE SADATS' VISIT, AND THE VP HAD INDICATED THAT THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION MIGHT HELP. JUST A WEEK OR TWO AGO THE MIN OF HEALTH HAD RECEIVED A CHECK FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, BUT MADE OUT TO THE "LIGHT AND HOPE" SOCIETY (A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FOR THE BLIND). MRS FAHMY IS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS REALLY INTENDED FOR FAITH AND HOPE, BUT HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO GET THE CHECK OUT OF THE CLUTCHES OF THE

MIN OF HEALTH. INCIDENTALLY, DESPITE PROMISES MADE TO TRAUB, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH IS NOT YET ON THE BOARD (BECAUSE OF MINSOCIAL AFFAIRS RATEB'S OPPOSITION), BUT MRS FAHMY COMMENTED THAT SHE PLANS TO PRESS MRS SADAT TO INVITE HIM TO PARTICIPATE.

7. COMMENT: ANY SUGGESTIONS THE DEPT MAY HAVE ON POSSIBLE SOURCES OF MONEY FOR MRS SADAT'S HOSPITAL WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, SHE BELIEVES WE MADE AN EARLIER COMMITMENT TO HER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND FEELS SOMEWHAT LET DOWN.
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